

# Casa Encantadora

## Villa Instructions

**Welcome to Casa Encantadora. We wish you a lovely holiday here and hope you will relax and enjoy yourselves.**

These instructions are intended to help you get the most out of your time here. They are not exhaustive, so if there are any questions not covered here please feel free to call our friendly English-speaking caretaker Olivier on 06 75 46 93 65. If there is a real emergency that can't be handled by phone he can come to the villa<sup>1</sup>.

There are many fun things to do in this area, and information about lots of them can be found in the thick plastic folder in the living area. Please feel free to browse the folder or borrow the maps, but leave the contents for our next guests. The tourist office – syndicat d'initiative – in Sorede (next to the Mairie) has a large range of information leaflets in English, and can answer questions about the local area and events.

### Using villa equipment


#### Dishwasher

Place a tablet in holder and close door securely. Turn right hand knob to 3 and press 'Marche' button on left. To open door after cycle has finished pull handle. Please ensure all crockery is clean when you leave – additional costs will result if cleaners have to do any washing up.

#### Washing Machine/Laundry

Normal programme is 'B' + 40°. Turn on water at tap before start. Turn off after use. As a safety feature the door will not open for 2 minutes after a cycle is finished, so please wait until the door switch is illuminated. There is an indoor drying rack and also a rotary clothes line in the garden. An iron and ironing board are provided.

#### Cooker

Hob is gas and can be lit by gas lighter or matches. There is a gas bottle in the cupboard under the worktop next to the cooker. The oven is electric. Use on fan oven setting, turn left hand knob to 

#### Hot Water

Hot water is solar powered – normal switch position is green. **f** more hot water is required switch to **red** for electric water heater.

#### Swimming Pool

No unsupervised children to use the pool. No jumping or diving off the sides – the bottom is very solid and you will hurt yourself! Please shower before using the pool. Shower is connected to the tap by the green garden hose. The steps can be removed if younger children are about.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note there will be a €50 call-out fee

If drinks are taken in the pool or Jacuzzi please use the plastic cups and glasses provided. Not only is glass dangerous in the pool, it could cut the liner and result in it having to be drained at great expense!.

### **Jacuzzi**

Press 'Jet 1' once to switch on pump, and 'blower' to start bubbles. Jacuzzi is set to remain at 35° between 0800-1200 and 1800-2200. Outside these times it can be started manually by pressing 'Jet 1'. Please shower before use because excess sun tan creams and oils can clog the filtration system and will make the water go cloudy.

### **Stereo**

There is a cable for plugging in iPods and MP3 players. Press tape/monitor and ensure CD button is out.

### **Windows and shutters**

Please don't leave windows or shutters unsecured when you go out. It can get very windy and breakages can happen quickly.

### **Television/DVD player**

TV has French channels only. DVDs can be rented in Argeles. We will leave a few English ones but please bring your favourites.

### **Alarm**

Do not use or tamper with alarm. If it sounds, call Olivier. This is a very low crime area and the alarm is only set when property will be vacant for a longer period. The gate remote controls should be kept safely with the villa keys. They are very expensive, and loss of a remote will also require the whole system to be reprogrammed by an engineer, which will unfortunately result in your damage deposit being forfeited.

### **A/Cs (Air Conditioners)**

Leave set to 18°-20° normally in the summer and 20°-22° in winter. In winter change mode to heat. Keep doors and windows closed when A/Cs in use.

### **General villa notes:**

#### **Arrival and departure**

You will be met at the villa by Olivier who will hand over the keys and gate remote controls. Arrival can be any time after 16:00. Please telephone Olivier on 00 33 6 75 46 93 65 at least one hour before arrival. On your departure day the villa must be vacated no later than 10:00 to allow cleaning. Please also contact Olivier to let him know when you will be leaving, if you do not hand the keys directly to Olivier please leave them in the letter box by the front gate after securely locking up the villa.

#### **Pets and smokers**

Pets are not allowed except by prior arrangement with us. Smoking is only allowed in the garden – please extinguish and dispose of cigarette ends in the rubbish bin, not flower beds or pots.

#### **Rubbish**

Please put out the brown topped bin on Sunday and Thursday nights. It must be moved to the edge of the road, the collectors will not come to the gate.

The yellow topped bin is for recycling – cans, plastic bottles and packaging (not glass). It is collected early on Wednesday mornings.

### **Sliding doors to sun deck.**

Slide lock to green position – slide door open. Please leave door closed when air conditioner is on. Do not slide lock to red when door is open, or it will get stuck and you won't be able to close the door!.

### **Toilets**

Do not put anything except toilet paper down toilets, and please use sparingly. If toilet flush becomes slow please check drain under brick cover outside front door in path to garage. If it is standing full of water, call Olivier. (Can try to clear blockage by pushing a running water hose down the 6" hole by front gate to flush it out, this usually works! If not, the Mairie can send their efficient drain-clearing team).

### **Bedding**

Please note the bedding will be provided with freshly laundered sheets, you will need to make up the beds that you need yourselves. Please note that we do not provide bath or beach towels and recommend that you bring these with you.

### **Furniture**

Please do not sit on the leather chairs or sofas in damp swimwear. Wooden chairs, plastic chairs, sun loungers and sofa-bed in the veranda are ok. Please do not take any furniture or household items to the beach.

### **Deck**

Please do not use the barbeque, or smoke, on the deck. Be careful not to drop anything valuable between the decking planks because they cannot be moved! Please note that the built-in barbeque inside the veranda cannot be used because the chimney has been bricked up! We have found the far southeast corner of the paved area by the pool to be the best barbeque spot, sheltered by the hedges, but it can be moved to the back garden if required.

### **Fire place**

If used, please replace wood before departure. Wood can be bought at local supermarkets.

### **Bike Rental**

Available in Argeles; tel 04 68 95 76 36 (next to Champion Supermarket) or at Velocation 04 68 81 61 61. It takes about ½ hour to cycle the 8km from Argeles to Sorède.

### **Eating & dining;**

#### **Bakeries**

There are several good bakeries in Sorède. They stagger their closing days so there is always somewhere you can buy fresh bread, even on Sundays. See the attached map for locations.

**Traiteur/ Caterer**

French cuisine ready cooked meals can be ordered from La Marjolaine Traiteur in St Genis des Fontaines on 04 68 89 10 14, the butcher in Sorède also sells prepared meals.

**Restaurants**

The Auberge Margaux is one of our favourite places with a typical French Catalan menu at reasonable prices. La Salamadre is a little more gourmet-oriented but still very popular. La Cueva tapas bar in Laroque des Alberes is first-rate too. Advance bookings are recommended at all places in high season.

**Pizza Take Aways**

Excellent pizzas can be ordered by phone and picked up from Pizza Laroque (04 68 95 45 43) in the centre of Laroque des Alberes. There is also a nice take away pizza shop on the main street in Saint Andre, open most evenings, and in the summer in the main square in Sorede.

**Ready Meals**

For easy and tasty dinners, try the local specialities from the local Champion supermarket deli counter with some fresh salad and a chilled bottle of local wine. They also have excellent meat and fish for the BBQ, and sell a wonderful poulet roti, (freshly roasted chicken).

**Maps**

Recommended map, covers local area and can be bought in local shops:  
IGN Carte de Randonnée 2549 OT: Banyuls, Col de Perthus, Cote Vermeille